Applicant: Helena Seppanen et al.

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Probe = a rol movable in vertical hone +
founded who a magnet at the lower end thereof.

One

Listing of Claims:

(Currently Amended) A process method for the purification of a substance,

1. analyte not the probe wherein

a material containing the substance, and magnetic particles coated or treated with a reagent which binds the particles to the substance, are dispensed in a first medium,

a binding reaction is let to take place, in which reaction the substance is bound to the particles,

a magnetic probe is pushed into the medium, whereby particles adhere to the probe, the probe together with the particles and the substance bound to them is transferred to a second medium, and

wherein a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed in at least one of the mediums.

- 2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the surface tension releasing agent is selected from a group consisting of tenside, alcohol, protein, salt and carbohydrate.
- (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the surface tension releasing agent is a tenside in the form of a detergent.
- (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.001 to 0.5% (w/v).
- (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the surface tension releasing agent is a protein.
- (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.1 to 10% (w/v).
- (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, wherein the surface tension releasing agent is a salt.

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8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the concentration of the salt is 0.1 to 10 M.

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- 9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 for the purification of a material selected from a group consisting of cells, viruses, subcellular organelles, proteins, and nucleic acid materials.
- 10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9 for the purification of nucleic acid materials.
- 11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is less than 50 μ m.
- 12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles is 0.01 to 5 mg/ml.
- 13. (Previously Presented) A method for separating magnetic particles by a magnetic probe from a medium, said method comprising the step of dispensing a surface tension releasing agent into the medium before the particles are separated from the medium.
- 14. (Previously Presented) A method for improving the adherence of magnetic particles from a liquid medium to a magnetic probe to be pushed into the medium, said method comprising the step of dispensing a surface tension releasing agent into the medium before the particles are adhered to the probe.
- 15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the probe together with the particles and the substance bound to them is separated from the second medium and transferred to a third medium.
- 16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, where a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed in at least the first medium before the probe and the particles are transferred from it.
- 17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein a surface tension releasing agent is dispensed in all mediums before the probe and the particles are transferred therefrom.
- 18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.005 to 0.1% (w/v).
- 19. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 18, wherein the concentration of the tenside is 0.01 to 0.05% (w/v).

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20. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.25 to 5% (w/v).

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- 21. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 20, wherein the concentration of the protein is 0.5 to 2% (w/v).
- 22. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, wherein the concentration of the salt is 0.1 to 7 M.
- 23. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is 0.1 to 10 μ m.
- 24. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 23, wherein the size of the magnetic particles is 1 to 5 μ m.
- 25. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 12, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles is 0.5 to 3 mg/ml.
- 26. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 25, wherein the concentration of the magnetic particles 0.2 to 2 mg/ml.